

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

MBFR-04 SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-10 OMB-01 ACDA-19 DRC-01

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P R 102110Z OCT 73

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2062

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 3352

USCINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

USNMR SHAPE

USLOSACLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 4845

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MCAP, CA, NATO

SUBJECT: CANADA'S FIVE-YEAR DEFENSE PROGRAM

SUMMARY: BELGIAN AND UK PERMREPS OBJECT TO STATEMENT IN CANADIAN FIVE-YEAR DEFENSE PROGRAM. END SUMMARY.

1. AT THE OCTOBER 10 NAC CANADIAN CHARGE (MARSHALL) DISTRIBUTED ENGLISH AND FRENCH LANGUAGE TEXTS OF STATEMENT ON CANADIAN FIVE-YEAR DEFENSE PROGRAM. STATEMENT BY DEFMIN RICHARDSON WILL BE MADE IN OTTAWA AT 1500 ZULU OCTOBER 10. (TEXT SEPTTEL). MARSHALL CALLED ATTENTION TO PORTION OF TEXT WHICH LISTS NEW EQUIPMENT PROGRAMS WHICH WILL ABSORB SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF CANADIAN DEFENSE CAPITAL EXPENDITURES DURING THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

2. BELGIAN PERMREP (DE STAERCKE) WAS MORE INTERESTED IN PART OF TEXT WHICH SAID THAT THE CANADIAN FIVE-YEAR DEFENSE MODIFICATION AND RENOVATION PROGRAM IS DESIGNED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, TO "MAIN-CONFIDENTIAL

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TAIN CANADIAN DEFENSE CONTRIBUTIONS TO NATO, WHILE CONTINUING, IN LINE WITH THE GENERAL NATO TREND, TO DECREASE GRADUALLY THE PERCENTAGE OF OUR GNP ALLOCATED TO THE DEFENSE BUDGET." FRENCH TEXT USED THE WORDS "...CONFORMEMENT A LA POLITIQUE GENERALE DE

CET ORGANISME..." DE STAERCKE SAID SUCH A STATEMENT WAS SIMPLY NOT TRUE. THIS WAS NOT NATO POLICY, AND THE FACTS BORE THAT OUT. FURTHERMORE, HE SAID WHETHER "POLICY" OR "TREND" THE CANADIAN STATEMENT WAS CONTRARY TO THE SPIRIT OF AD-70. IN DIRECT TERMS, HE ASKED THE CANADIAN CHARGE, "WHAT'S UP?"

3. MARSHALL REPLIED THAT HE HAD QUERIED OTTAWA ABOUT THIS LANGUAGE AND THE ONLY EXPLANATION HE WAS OFFERED WAS THAT IT HAD BEEN PUT IN THE STATEMENT FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL PURPOSES.

4. DE STAERCKE WAS NOT SATISFIED WITH THIS, AND FAIRLY SHARP DISCUSSION ENSUED AMONG THE SYG AND THE BELGIAN, CANADIAN AND UK REPS TO THE EFFECT THAT EVEN IF IT IS NOT NATO POLICY, PERHAPS IT WAS IN FACT TRUE THAT THERE HAS BEEN IN NATO A TREND OF DECREASING PERCENTAGES OF GNP BEING DEVOTED TO DEFENSE BUDGETS. LUNS RECALLED THAT THE TREND OF EUROPEAN BUDGETS HAD BEEN UPWARD IN THE LAST 18 MONTHS.

5. DISCUSSION CONCLUDED WHEN MARSHALL UNDERTOOK TO TELEPHONE OTTAWA TO REGISTER THESE OBJECTIONS TO THIS SECTION OF THE PROPOSED CANADIAN STATEMENT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 02 APR 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NATO04845
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731064/abqcecqqa.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15-Aug-2001 by elyme>; APPROVED <25-Sep-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CANADA'S FIVE-YEAR DEFENSE PROGRAM
TAGS: MCAP, CA, NATO
To: STATE
SECDEF INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
USCINCEUR
USDOCOSOUTH
USNMR SHAPE
USLOSACLANT
Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005